



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/690,055	10/16/2000	William Russell Brisiel	1411(SURA)	2104

30010 7590 02/11/2004

AUZVILLE JACKSON, JR.
8652 RIO GRANDE ROAD
RICHMOND, VA 23229

EXAMINER

RHODE JR, ROBERT E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3625

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/690,055

Applicant(s)

BRISIEL ET AL.

Examiner

Rob Rhode

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cov r sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant amendment of 1-15-04 amended traversed rejections of Claims 1 - 10.

Currently, claims 1- 10 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4 – 7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnes (US 5,970,475) in view of Rosenberg (US 6,970,475).

Regarding claim 1 and related claim 6, the combination of Barnes and Rosenberg teach a method and system of storing, searching and purchasing a wide variety of items from an intranet based electronic stockroom and catalog (ESAC) comprising the steps of: where Barnes teaches housing the ESAC in a server that operates on a secure company intranet wherein the ESAC can be accessed by authorized employees at one or more terminals (see at least Col 7, lines 48 – 59 and Figure 2); storing vendor catalog information in the ESAC (see at least Col 9, lines 25 – 29 and Figures 4 and 14); allowing multiple vendors to download their catalog information to the ESAC for initial

Art Unit: 3625

loading of their catalogs or updating of their catalogs (see at least Figures 2 – 4 and 14

[Please note that Barnes does not have the supplier downloading their catalogs.

However, Barnes does refer to and thereby incorporates the teachings of King (US 5,319,542, which specifically discloses and teaches the supplier down loading their catalogue to the customer's private internal server. In this manner, the supplier has the responsibility for updating]; providing search capabilities for simultaneous searching, by authorized employees, of the multiple vendor catalogs and items that are available on-site (see at least Col 8, lines 36 – 37); and integrating ESAC functions with other company electronic files so that budgeting, accounting and authorization limitations are implemented in the purchasing process and tracking of purchases is possible (see at least Col 8, lines 28 – 57, Col 9, lines 5 - 11 and Figures 3 and 5). Regarding claim 2 and related claim 7, Barnes teaches a method and system wherein, the step of allowing comprises permitting the vendors to download their catalog information via the Internet to the ESAC and the catalog information includes text and image information (see at least Col 23, lines 53 – 59) and regarding claim 4 and related claim 9, Barnes teaches a method and system wherein, the step of integrating comprises associating budgeting, accounting and authorization information with each employee and/or group of employees and automatically updating this information upon purchases and/or issues that are made (see at least Col 8, lines 30 – 47, Col 6, lines 61 – 65 and Figures 11 – 13). Additionally and regarding claim 5 and related claim 10, Barnes teaches a method and system wherein, the step of integrating comprises associating an order for an item

Art Unit: 3625

with an employee placing the order and notifying the employee when the item is received (see at least Col 8, lines 36 – 39, Col 25, lines 54 – 59 and Figures 11 and 25).

However, Barnes does not specifically disclose and teach a method and system for storing on-site inventory information in the ESAC.

On the other hand, Rosenberg teaches a method and system for storing on-site inventory information in the ESAC (see at least Abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have provided the method and system of Barnes with the method and system of Rosenberg to have enabled storing, searching and purchasing a wide variety of items from an intranet based electronic stockroom and catalog (ESAC) comprising the steps of: housing the ESAC in a server that operates on a secure company intranet wherein the ESAC can be accessed by authorized employees at one or more terminals; storing on-site inventory information and vendor catalog information in the ESAC; allowing multiple vendors to download their catalog information to the ESAC for initial loading of their catalogs or updating of their catalogs; providing search capabilities for simultaneous searching, by authorized employees, of the multiple vendor catalogs and items that are available on-site; and integrating ESAC functions with other company electronic files so that budgeting, accounting and authorization limitations are implemented in the purchasing process and tracking of purchases is possible – in order

Art Unit: 3625

to provide the capabilities for company approved buyers to quickly purchase required items. In this manner, the company can reduce both time and paperwork associated with purchasing non-production items, which will save money and thereby increase profits.

Claims 3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Barnes and Rosenberg as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of Johnson (US 6,023,683).

The combination of the Barnes and Rosenberg substantially disclose and teach the applicant's invention.

However, the combination of Barnes and Rosenberg does not specifically disclose and teach a method and system wherein, the step of providing search capabilities comprises providing keyword, part number, manufacturer or other descriptor search mechanisms.

On the other hand and regarding Claim 3 and related claim 8, Johnson teaches a method and system wherein, the step of providing search capabilities comprises providing keyword, part number, manufacturer or other descriptor search mechanisms (see at least Abstract).

Art Unit: 3625

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have provided the combination of Barnes and Rosenberg with the method and system of Johnson to have enabled wherein, the step of providing search capabilities comprises providing keyword, part number, manufacturer or other descriptor search mechanisms – in order to provide an easy to use system in locating desired items. In this regard, the user satisfaction will be increased, which will ensure long-term use of the system as well providing evidence and support of the business case justifying the investment.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1-15-2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Barnes does not have the individuals going through centralized purchasing agents.

In response, the applicant's claims do not disclose a "centralized purchasing agent". Rather, the applicant's claims disclose only "authorized employees", which Barnes teaches (Col 1, lines 11 – 12).

The applicant argues that Barnes does not have the suppliers downloading their catalogs.

As noted above in the rejection, the King reference, which is incorporated in it's entirety by Barnes (Col 2, lines 44 – 53) - does disclose and teach vendor's downloading their catalogs to be stored on the customer's ESAC/server as well as disclosing the fact the supplier can also update (see at least King's - Abstract and Figures 1 and 2).

The applicant argues that Rosenberg does not disclose "an internet based electronic stockroom and catalogue (ESAC)" nor does the reference disclose where "vendors are allowed to download their catalog information to ESAC".

First, the applicant's claims do not recite an "electronic stockroom". Rather the applicant's claims recite "a method and system for storing on-site inventory information in the ESAC". In that regard, Rosenberg does teach a "method and system for storing on-site inventory information in the ESAC" (see at least Abstract, Col 2, line 36 and Figures 1 and 2). Second, Rosenberg was not the reference relied upon to teach "vendors downloading their catalog information to ESAC". Rather, Barnes was relied upon to disclose and teach these features and please see above.

The applicant argues that Johnson does not disclose “an internet based electronic stockroom and catalogue (ESAC)” nor does the reference disclose where “vendors are allowed to download their catalog information to ESAC”.

First, the applicant’s claims do not recite an “electronic stockroom”. Rather the applicant’s claims recite “a method and system for storing on-site inventory information in the ESAC”. In that regard, Rosenberg does teach a “method and system for storing on-site inventory information in the ESAC” (see above). Second, Johnson was not the reference relied upon to teach “vendors downloading their catalog information to ESAC”. Rather, Barnes was relied upon to disclose and teach these features and please see above.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Rob Rhode** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-8230**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Jeff Smith** can be reached on **(703) 308-3588**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Receptionist** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-1113**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 [Official communications; including
After Final communications labeled
"Box AF"]

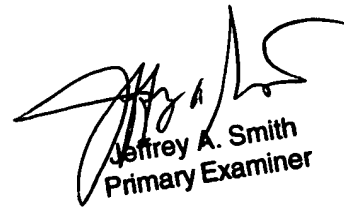
(703) 746-7418 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 7th floor receptionist.

Application/Control Number: 09/690,055
Art Unit: 3625

Page 10

RER



Jeffrey A. Smith
Primary Examiner